



News Release

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2014 New Mexico Junior Duck Stamp Winners Honored at Valle de Oro NWR

This year, 210 New Mexico students have shown how much they care about saving wetland habitat by submitting original artworks depicting ducks, geese, and swans of North America in the just-completed Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Contest. The entries came from Kindergarten through 12th Grade students from 17 schools, home school programs, and art studio or academy classes located across the state. A ceremony was held at the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge on May 3 to honor the winners. The public and media were also invited to attend.

Entries were judged March 21 at the Dennis Chavez Federal Building in Albuquerque by Jennifer Owen-White, Refuge Manager of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, Kathy Caffrey of the Friends of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, Dan Collins, Migratory Game Bird Coordinator, Jason Kitting of Central New Mexico Audubon Society and Adrienne Warner, Junior Duck Stamp Outreach Coordinator.

The Best of Show winner in the statewide contest, selected by judges on March 21, is a colored pencil and pastel piece, titled "Aloha Nene" of a Nene goose submitted by Lily Zhang from the Young at Art Studio in Corrales, NM. The winner's art teacher is Tina Stallard. Lily Zhang was presented with a pair of Eagle Optics Denali binoculars at the ceremony. This entry will go on to compete with Best of Show winners from other states in the national Junior Duck Stamp Contest at the National Conservation Training Center located in Shepardstown, West Virginia.

The Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Contest is a nationwide art and science-based program for schools developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to teach greater awareness of our natural resources. The design selected as the national winner will be reproduced on the 2014-2015 Federal Junior Duck Stamp. The national winner will be awarded a \$1,000.00 scholarship and a trip to Washington D.C to participate in a special ceremony on the first day of duck stamp sales.

Duck Stamp entries in the New Mexico contest were judged in four grade categories: K-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12.

First of Show artists were:

Isaiah Abeyta of Terry Duncan Studio in Los Lunas

Hayden Stuart of Terry Duncan Studio in Los Lunas

Abigail Whitehead of Peggy Mason Studio in Roswell

Second-place winners were:

Nathaniel Arrellano - SY Jackson Elementary - Albuquerque

Isabel Otero - Private studio - Los Lunas

Daniel Saenz - Pecos High - Pecos

Dylan Zinn - Painted Iguana Art Studio - Albuquerque

Third-place winners are:

Tristin Corey - Duncan Studios - Los Lunas

Sidney Davis - SY Jackson Elementary - Albuquerque

Danielle Lopez - Duncan Studio - Los Lunas

In addition, 20 students received Honorable Mention. Place and Honorable Mention winners were also formally recognized at the ceremony at Valle de Oro. Students submitting artwork also had the option to enter accompanying conservation messages, which were judged separately. Isabel Otero, won Best of Show for her message, "If you're going to save a duck, start with their habitat."

The 2014 Junior Duck competition in New Mexico was sponsored by Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge and Friends of the Valle de Oro, which contributed toward expenses. Native American Community Academy interns contributed to over 100 hours of time needed to conduct the program. Jennifer Owen-White, Refuge Manager for Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge in Albuquerque was statewide coordinator.

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